

messages, workers in the gaming facility may attempt to fill the order and bring it to the player or user. The location of the requester of service is displayed to help facilitate delivery. The time is posted to ensure that orders are processed in the order in which they were sent.

[0067] Figure 18 illustrates an exemplary service station reply message menu displayed in response to a work station attendant touching the phrase "REG. COKE" on the display 134 shown in Figure 17, or entering the number 1 on keypad 114B. The attendant can enter a message by touching the number 2 or touching the phrase "CONTENT OF MESSAGE" shown in Figure 18 which causes display of an alphanumeric input image on display 134 like the image shown in Figure 14. A message then is entered in the manner described in connection with Figure 14. For example, the message may be "WE ARE OUT OF REGULAR COKE. IS A DIET COKE OK?" By enabling interactive communication between a gaming location and a service station, the delivery of desired goods to gaming locations is facilitated.

[0068] Communication unit 135 generates a message based on the data entered by an attendant as explained in

connection with Figures 14 and 18. The message includes an identification of the gaming location (e.g., 102) to which the message is to be sent. The message is transmitted via a serial controller in service station 132 and network 126 to gaming location 102 and is displayed on display 118 in the manner shown in Figure 19.

[0069] The message from the service center is displayed with a YES button 190 and a NO button 191. The player at gaming location 102 responds to the message by touching display 118 at either the word "YES" or "NO." Communication unit 119 generates a message based on the touching of button 190 or 191. The message includes an identification of service station 132 to which the message is to be sent. The message is transmitted via serial controller 148 and network 126 to service station 132 and is displayed on display 134 so that an attendant will know the drink preferred by the player.

[0070] Those skilled in the gaming and computer arts are able to program the interfaces and central authority to provide the displays and interactivity described in the accompanying drawings and described in this specification.

[0071] The "OTHER" options referenced in the drawings are handled by displaying a numeric or alphanumeric input image depending on context.

[0072] While the invention has been described with reference to one or more preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will understand that changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular step, structure, or material to the teachings of the invention without departing from its scope. Therefore, it is intended that the invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed, but that the invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.